Annual REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Administration

OF

THE RURAL DISTRICT

OF

ABERGAVENNY

FOR THE YEAR 1936.

By O. G. COLDICOTT, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

1937

Abergavenny:

Dover & Co., Frogmore Street,

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Monk Street,
Abergavenny.
May, 1937.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ABERGAVENNY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Circumstances of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1936. As you are aware, I commenced duties as your Medical Officer on 1st January, 1936.

General Statistics.

Area ... 62,694 acres

Population ... 8,477

Number of inhabited houses (at 31st Dec., 1936) ... 1,926 according to the Rate books.

Rateable Value at 31st December, 1936 ... £34,951

Sum represented by a Penny rate ... £121

Social Conditions and Chief Occupations.

The Abergavenny Rural District is mainly mountainous in character, and lies at an altitude varying from 95ft. to 1,955 feet above sea level. Excepting in the south western portion of the Parish of Llanfoist Fawr, practically the whole of the population is engaged in agricultural work. From Llanfoist Fawr, a number of industrial workers are engaged (or would be so engaged, if working) in the collieries and other industrial undertakings in the adjoining Urban District of Blaenavon.

Vital Statistics.

		Total	*M.*	*F.*
Live Births—Legitimate	...	99	48	51
Illegitimate	...	5	3	2
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12·26				
Still-Births	...	7	3	4
Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births			...	3·06
Deaths	...	84	52	32
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			...	9·9
Deaths from Pueperal causes			...	1
Death Rate per 1,000 registered births			..	9·9
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—				
All Infants per 1,000 live-births			...	57·69
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live-births			...	40·4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			...	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			..	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			...	0

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

The Public Health Staff consists of a whole time Sanitary Inspector who holds the qualified certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Joint Examination Board, and a whole time temporary assistant ; holding the same qualifications ; and a part time Medical Officer of Health. The temporary Sanitary Inspector was appointed under the Housing (overcrowding) Act, 1935 ; and dealt solely with housing inspections.

During the year there was no change in the Laboratory facilities, at which full use was made for the testing of public water supplies, and samples of milk from farms and schools in the district.

The Motor Ambulance under the control of the St. John Ambulance Association has proved very satisfactory during the year in conveying sick persons and road casualties to Hospital.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER. The following improvements in public water supplies were made during 1936 :—

Mardy. The Twyn-y-Wern Scheme for supplying this village is nearing completion. Connections will be made as soon as the pipes are thoroughly flushed out ; and a report of the chemical and bacteriological analysis obtained.

Govilon. A 2-inch main has been installed taking the overflow from the hydraulic ram to the Post Office and along the main road to five new houses ; thus improving the existing supply for dwellings en route ; and eliminating the cause for complaints from these tenants.

Brynygwenin. Negotiations in connection with the reconstruction of the well in Spring Cottage Farm field have been protracted owing to legal difficulties; but it is hoped that these difficulties will be overcome and work on the well commenced shortly.

Llanvihangel Crucorney. Two schemes—Pen-y-Parc and Bryn Arw—have been formulated for the supply of this district. The Water Committee gave careful consideration to both schemes and submitted the engineers' reports and estimate of the latter to Llanvihangel Parish Council for their consideration. The Parish is widely scattered, and the present supply, obtained as it is, from a variety of sources, is unsatisfactory and a source of many complaints. It is hoped that some definite plan for an efficient supply will be formulated in the near future.

Pant-y-gelli. This hamlet was supplied by an old dipping well which has been removed ; and a properly constructed concrete covered-in tank has been substituted ; the supply being obtained through a bib-tap.

Llanelen. An arrangement similar to the above has been instituted at Cefn-Coed Well.

The Deri. The water supply in this district has been greatly improved by the construction of a 1,000 gallon concrete storage tank ; and the laying of about 250 yards of 1" piping connecting all the surrounding dwellings to this supply.

Llanvair Kilgeddin. A pipe supply has been conveyed from St. Mary's Well to the Cottages on the roadside and in St. Mary's Yard ; a distance of 270 yards. This also affords a supply to the School.

Allws. The ram scheme has been extended to include a further six houses.

The Bryn. The supply for the four Council Houses has been obtained from the Llanover Estate.

Bryngwyn. The supply has been connected to the School.

Llanfoist. The cottages near the Church have been connected to the main.

II.—DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

There is at present no public drainage in your area ; but a Sewerage Scheme for the Mardy has been prepared ; and tenders will be asked for in the near future.

The Sewage from all the Council Houses is treated in the disposal works at the site of the houses ; and sewage from all houses in the district erected by private enterprise is collected into a septic tank and the effluent filtered before it enters the soakaway.

III.—RIVERS & STREAMS.

There is no pollution in the area ; and no action has been necessary.

IV.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The general method of accommodation throughout the District is the pail closet system. In all new houses, and in existing houses where the water is available owners are asked to instal pedestal pans.

V.—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Collection of dry house refuse is made weekly in the districts of Mardy, Llanfoist, Llanelen, Govilon, Pwlldu and Garndyrris. The service has recently been extended to include a monthly collection in Llanwenarth Citra.

VI.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A classified statement of inspections carried out and notices served is included in this report.

VII.—SHOPS. There are few shops in the district and no action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, has been necessary.

VIII.—SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action has been necessary.

IX.—SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS. There are no such facilities in the District ; and therefore no action has been necessary.

X.—SCHOOLS. The Water Supply and Sanitary arrangements in the Schools are systematically inspected.

Housing.

I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1)	(*a*) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	1021
	(*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	1021
(2)	(*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	58
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	58
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	4
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	54

II.—Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their officers ...	22

III.--Action under Statutory Powers during the year—

(a) Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	32
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(*a*) by owners ...	32
	(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring faults to be remedied ...	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...	4
	(*a*) By owners ...	4
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made	4
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders ...	4

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenants or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined ; the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

IV.—Housing Act 1935, Overcrowding.

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year ... 27

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 27

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 135

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. 27

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... Nil

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. During the year the cowsheds and dairies in the district have been systematically inspected; and action taken where necessary. Fifty seven milk samples have been tested by the Public Analyst. In sixteen cases an unsatisfactory report was obtained. The owners of the cowsheds were informed and another sample taken later ; which, with the exception of three cases, was found to be satisfactory.

Each month a sample of Grade A (T.T.) Milk has been taken from Coldbrook Home Farm and submitted for examination by the County Pathologist.

Meat and other Foods. There are only two Slaughter Houses in the District ; in use for about two hours each week. These are visited when slaughtering is in progress ; and the carcases inspected. It has not been necessary to take any proceedings ; and whenever possible, slaughtering is carried out in the Abergavenny Abbattoir.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

There have been no serious outbreaks of notifiable infectious diseases during the year ; and all the Scarlet Fever cases have been of a mild type.

The case of Enteric Fever ; and all the cases of Dysentry occurred at the Monmouthshire Mental Hospital, as did also the case of Pueperal Pyrexia.

According to the Notifications received from head teachers the highest incidence of the non-notifiable diseases has been that of chicken pox.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1936.

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED—Age Groups													Number admitted to Hospital
	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Total all ages	
Scarlet Fever ...	...	1	...	...	1	1	3	1	1	...	1	...	9	4
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	*1	..	...	1	1
Puerperal Fever ...	..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*1	...	...	...	1	1
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*1	...	...	*1	*1	3	3
	DEATHS—Age Groups													
Enteric Fever ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	*1	...	...	...	1	...

* These Cases occurred at the Mental Hospital.

In an endeavour to reduce the high rate of Maternal Mortality in this County it has been arranged that one of the preparations recently brought out for use in such cases shall be available in all districts. The supply for this district is to be stored at the Cottage Hospital.

Prevention of Blindness.

No special action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Tuberculosis.

Particulars of New Cases and Deaths are given below :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Under 1 year	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5 ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
5—15 ...	...	.	...	..	...	...	...	...
15—25 ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
25—35 ...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
35—45 ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45—55 ...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
55—65 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	5	1	1	...	...	2	...	1

Four of the cases notified were patients in the Monmouthshire Mental Hospital.

I am,

Yours faithfuly,

O. G. COLDICOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.